

REMARKS

Applicants' undersigned counsel thanks the Examiner for the courtesy extended during the interview of February 9, 2005. During the interview, the October 14, 2004 Office Action was discussed and this response includes the substance of that discussion.

Applicants respectfully traverse all of the pending claim rejections.

As discussed during the interview, the claims as written, are allowable over Tolfa, and Tazaki, because the claims recite a mixture in the R-group, and a hydroxyl group at the end, these features, in combination with the others, being neither disclosed nor suggested by Tolfa or Tazaki.

The present claims are patentably distinct from Fahl, at least because the polyalkylene glycol has a first polymer chain selected from an ethylene oxide homopolymer chain and a copolymer chain of ethylene oxide and one or more alkylene oxides except for ethylene oxide, and a second polymer chain of one or more alkylene oxides except for ethylene oxide, the one end of the first polymer chain being bonded to R¹, the other end of the first polymer chain being bonded to one end of the second polymer chain; and the other end of the second polymer chain being bonded to a terminal hydroxyl group. At least these features of the invention, in combination with the other features recited in the claims, is neither disclosed for suggested by Fahl.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to more clearly recite these features of the present invention.

Entry of this amendment after final is proper in order to place this case in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal. Applicants, therefore, request entry

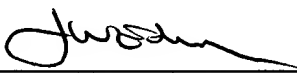
of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of the pending claims, and the timely allowance thereof.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 11, 2005

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